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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Item 33 of the preliminary list*
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 27 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia dated 24 March 1998.

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Declaration of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, issued at Belgrade on 24 March 1998

Proceeding from the need to unite all the human, material and spiritual resources for the well-being of Serbia and its citizens, committed to development based on the principles of freedom, democracy, justice, equality and solidarity, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, at its session of 24 March 1998, has adopted the following

DECLARATION ON NATIONAL UNITY

1. The responsibility for the realization of vital national and state interests, for both the present and the future of Serbia, imposes an obligation of national unity vis-à-vis the fundamental needs of the State and the people. To all, regardless of party or any other affiliation, Serbia and the well-being of its people and citizens should be the common concern and the highest priority. As historical circumstances have in the past caused the Serbian people to be divided, the present time requires harmony and unity.

Serbia needs harmony and unity. Therefore, aware of our responsibilities, the demands of the time and the expectations of the people and the citizens for the development and progress of Serbia in peace, we consign all the divisions of the past to history.

The universal principles of freedom, justice and democracy are the foundations of a stable and strong State and represent the firmest bulwark against division. The symbols and holidays of our State shall be the symbols and dates which are rooted in our State and national tradition, which unite us in our patriotism and our loyalty to the State and the people.

2. The history of our people is composed of the struggle for freedom and independence. We are rightfully proud of it. Therefore, we shall always defend our freedom and ensure the independence of our State.

The Serbian nation has never based, nor will it ever base, its rights upon the denial of the rights of others, but shall never agree to endangerment of the rights of the Serbian people, or of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia, by anyone.

3. We resolutely reject all attempts at ideological, religious or national exclusivity and selfishness. While respecting the human rights, freedoms and rights of representatives of national minorities living in Serbia, in accordance with the highest international standards, we shall at the same time protect the civil and national rights and the welfare of our people.

4. We commit ourselves to further developing and strengthening the democratic system through competition in knowledge, hard work and party platforms to the common benefit of Serbia and its citizens. Political differences must not be an

obstacle to rapid development and reforms, but rather an encouragement in the quest for the best solutions in ordering the State on the principles of a market economy, parliamentary democracy, the full affirmation and realization of human and civil rights and freedoms.

5. Serbia and Montenegro are two names for the same root, historical aspiration and destiny. There has never been, nor will there ever be, a younger and an older one. That is why Serbia and Montenegro, along with Republika Srpska, are not only the cornerstones of national unity, but also the expression of the will of the people to gather together all of what historically, politically, economically, spiritually, ethnically, culturally and in every other respect cannot be separated and, in particular, not confronted.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is the expression of the State and the most comprehensive confirmation of national unity.

6. United on the goals of all-round progress of the people and the State, we wish and want the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to be the steadiest mainstay of peace and cooperation with our neighbours and an equal and respected member of the European and international community of nations and States.

Today, more than ever before, our fate is in our hands and by this Declaration we confirm that we are capable of shouldering it successfully. These are decisions which concern our future. Our vision of Serbia is one of a modern, democratic, economically and culturally developed State, respected by everyone.

A democratic and strong Serbia, as guarantor of the democratic, stable and strong Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, represents our lasting commitment.

These times and the state and national goals demand that all political parties and all other actors make decisions which will unite, engage and direct the national strength towards the progress of Serbia and towards the well-being of everyone in Serbia.